

#976
7/19/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Kiyoshi HORII et al.

Serial No. [Not yet assigned]

Filed January 23, 2002

METHOD AND DEVICE FOR
STABILIZING SLIT FLUID JET
[Corresponding to PCT/JP00/02776
Filed April 27, 2000]

Attn: BOX PCT

Docket No. 2002-0044A

THE COMMISSIONER IS ADVISED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEE FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In the interest of compact prosecution and to reduce PTO filing fees, please amend the present application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A stabilizing device for stabilizing a slit fluid jet according to claim 2, wherein the length between an detached vortex, occurring to the back of the crossed groove portion, and a point to that the detached vortex has been shifted is equal to or greater than the length of one side of a diamond-shaped protruding portion that is formed by the x-shaped grooves.

Please add the following new claim:

5. (New) A stabilizing device for stabilizing a slit fluid jet according to claim 3, wherein the length between an detached vortex, occurring to the back of the crossed groove portion, and